

DFR 18005
SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 8

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

FILE NO.

MM

REPORT MADE AT: NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE: MAR 17 1957	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 3/4-6/52	REPORT MADE BY: DONALD E. SHANNON
TITLE: ASHER BEN NATHAN, was. Benjamin Asher, Asher Ben-Eitan, A. B. Nathan			CHARACTER OF CASE: ESPIONAGE - IS
SUMMARY REPORT			
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: ASHER BEN NATHAN, an Inspector of Israeli Consulates, reported in 1950 in control of Israeli Intelligence Service, in the United Kingdom. He visited the U.S. in November, 1950, ostensibly on an inspection trip. While in U.S. he was observed in company of BENJAMIN SHILOAN and TED KOLLEK, Israeli officials in the U.S. and alleged Israeli Intelligence officers. Also observed in company of MEIR SHALIT, Colonel VIVIAN KORNZOG, TOSEY MEVO and JOAB NEVATT, Israeli officials in U.S. BEN NATHAN and SHALIT visited U.S. State Department and Pentagon Building in Washington, D.C. and were observed in company of individuals believed to be identical with STUART W. ROCKWELL and NORMAN BURNS, employees of Economic Division, Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs, Department of State. BEN NATHAN also contacted his uncle, LEON WISNITZER of 1803 Riverside Drive, NYC.</p>			
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	RECORDED AND INDEXED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:		ROUTED TO:	CHECKED OFF:
5 Bureau (65-59612) 1 Los Angeles (Info) 1 Washington Field (Info) (65-5674) 3 New York (65-15511)		This is an FBI investigative report and makes no recommendation for clearance or disapproval of foreign agents. This is a confidential report and copies are being sent to you.	JACKETED: CF FBI

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

NY 65-15511


DETAILS: At New York, New York

This investigation is predicated upon information received from Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability.



*FBI
redaction*

On November 8, 1950, ASHER BEN NATHAN arrived at Idlewild Airport, New York, New York, aboard Pan American World Airways Flight Number 101, at 7:15 p.m. This flight had come in from London, England. At the time of his arrival his name was listed on the flight list as BENATHAN ASHER.



*FBI
redaction*

At the time BEN NATHAN arrived in the United States he advised the United States Customs officials that he planned to remain in New York City for approximately one or two weeks and that his purpose for coming to the United States was to make an inspection trip of Israeli Consulates in New York City. He indicated that he planned to travel to Washington, D.C., and possibly to San Francisco during his stay in this country. He had in his possession a full diplomatic passport number 5183, issued in Israel on July 15, 1950, valid until July, 1951. He used the name of ASHER BEN-NATAN at the time he submitted his customs declaration form at Idlewild Airport.

NY 65-15511

FBI
redaction

During his visit to the United States he made two trips to Washington, D.C., namely on November 15, 1950, and again on November 22, 1950.

FBI
redaction

Confidential Informant A-2, of known reliability

During REUBEN SHILOAH'S stay in the United States he too resided at the Hotel Mayflower, in New York City.

On November 15, 1950, ASHER BEN NATHAN was observed to proceed to LaGuardia Airport in the company of an individual identified as JOAB NEVATT, a clerk in the Israeli Consulate in New York City. They proceeded together via plane to Washington, D.C. On the arrival of ASHER BEN NATHAN and JOAB NEVATT, in Washington, D.C., they were met by MEIR SHALIT, Assistant Press Attache, Israeli Embassy. It was ascertained that ASHER BEN NATHAN remained overnight in the apartment of MEIR SHALIT, at 2301 41st Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

On November 16, 1950, SHALIT and BEN NATHAN were observed having lunch at the Watergate Inn, in Washington, D.C., with two unidentified men. Subsequently, the four individuals drove to the United States State Department at 21st Street and Virginia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. It was ascertained that they proceeded to room 3215. The sign on the door of this office reflected it is the office of STUART W. ROCKWELL, and the State

NY 65-15511

Department Directory lists him as Chief, Economic Division, Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs. ~~NORMAN BURNS~~ is also listed as an employee of that section, according to the State Department Directory.

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that on November 15, 1950, MEIR SHALIT had invited one BURESS of the State Department to lunch with him and a guest at the Watergate Inn on the following day.

[REDACTED]

FBI
redaction

Confidential Informant T-3, previously mentioned, advised that the apparent purpose of BEN NATHAN'S visit to Washington, D.C., on November 22, 1950, was to confer with the Ambassador AUBREY ELEAN and Colonel VIVIAN HERZOG, Military Attache.

[REDACTED]

FBI
redaction

Confidential Informant T-5 advised

[REDACTED]

FBI
redaction

NY 65-15511

Confidential Informant T-2, previously mentioned, has advised that ASHER BEN NATHAN'S mother's maiden name was BERTHA WIZNITZER.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, advised that LEON WIZNITZER advised on March 7, 1952, that he was the uncle of ASHER BEN NATHAN and that his sister was BERTHA, mother of ASHER BEN NATHAN.

The following information pertaining to LEON WIZNITZER was obtained from the Immigration and Naturalization Service records, 70 Columbus Avenue, New York, New York:

Petition for Naturalization was filed by him under the name of LEISER WIZNITZER in April, 1946. He listed his address at that time as 1803 Riverside Drive and his occupation as clerk. He was born January 17, 1884, at Karapocsiu, Romania. He listed his nationality as stateless, last a citizen of Austria. His wife is MIRIAM, whom he married on November 19, 1912 at Lwow, Poland. His wife was born October 23, 1883, at Lwow, Poland. She entered the United States at New York on December 29, 1939, and was naturalized as a citizen of the United States on August 30, 1945, at New York City.

LEISER WIZNITZER stated that he wanted to be admitted to citizenship under the name LEON WIZNITZER. He was so admitted on April 1, 1946. According to his Petition for Naturalization he immigrated to the United States from Casa Blanca, Morocco, on January 14, 1942, under the name of LEISER WIZNITZER. His last foreign residence was listed as Marseille, France. He stated he is the father of three children, namely, DAVID, born September 28, 1913, who resides in New York City; MAX, born April 29, 1915, who in 1946 was in the United States Army; and ARTHUR, born June 28, 1919, who in 1946 resided at Palestine.

FBI
redaction

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

NY 65-15511

The following is a description of ASHER BEN NATHAN
obtained from observation and available background information:

Born	February 15, 1918, Israel
Height	6'1"
Weight	200 lbs.
Build	Medium
Hair	Dark brown, curly
Appearance	Beard
Peculiarities	Wears mustache; no hat

C L O S E D

SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET